

## Jesse Sutton, William Sutton and the Ten Mile Swamp connection



***Ten Mile Swamp in Robeson County, North Carolina 1808<sup>1</sup>***

In March 1797, Jesse Sutton was a chain carrier for two surveys on Ten Mile Swamp, one for David Wilcox and the other for Simon Cox.<sup>2</sup> Chain carriers were often relatives, friends or neighbors of the patentee.

In July 1797, Jesse was assigned to a road crew.<sup>3</sup> Males age 16 and over were appointed by the county justices to maintain sections of road near where they lived, so these assignments can be another source of information about likely neighbors.

## Jesse's family

Jesse was the sole occupant of his household in 1790. In 1800 he appears to have a wife plus two sons and a daughter under the age of 10. I believe that one of these sons was my ancestor Caleb Sutton: despite his reported age in 1850 and 1860, the age shown for him in earlier censuses extrapolates to a birth year range of 1795-1800. The fact that Caleb was named as head of household in 1820 also suggests he was of age by then; otherwise, it would have been customary for the older female, the only other occupant and presumably his widowed mother, to be named.

A candidate for the other son has now emerged: William Sutton witnessed the July 1813 deed wherein David Wilcox sold land on Ten Mile Swamp, including part of the tract surveyed in 1797 on which Jesse Sutton served as a chain carrier.<sup>4</sup> This is the only sighting of a William Sutton in early Robeson thus far. Unless he was a good bit older than Caleb he was still a minor, but witnesses to legal documents could be as young as 14.

Still unanswered is where Caleb, his mother and his siblings — possibly including the newfound William — were in 1810. Based on the following, my guess is that they were living with their yet to be identified maternal relations:

- There's no evidence Jesse owned any land. There are no estate records and no guardianship records for his minor children as there would have been had he owned any real property or personal property of significant value.
- Court minutes through 1813<sup>5</sup> not only make no mention of an estate but no mention of his children being apprenticed out. This was typical when a father died without leaving an estate sufficient to support his widow and minor children, so that the county didn't have to assume the burden of providing for them. So who was providing for them?

## Jesse Sutton and his neighbors

Survey for **David Wilcox** 25 March 1797 names **Henry Pope** as an adjoining landowner with Jesse Sutton and William Coleman as chain carriers.

Survey for **Simon Cox** 25 March 1797 names **Gilbert Cox** as an adjoining landowner, Jesse Sutton and **David Wilcox** were chain carriers.

Road crew 5 July 1797: **Simon Cox** appointed overseer for the crew to work the road from **Frederick Rackley's** to **Henry Pope's** with the following to work on



the crew: **Samuel Kennedy Sr. & Jr.**, Josiah Ivey, Jacob Barnes, Everett Lee, Levi Cox, Jesse Sutton, **Henry Purvis**, Arthur Hedgepath, William Mauren.

The names in bold are found in varying degrees of proximity to Jesse Sutton on the 1790 census (all in one column in original but split across two columns here, with Jesse Sutton at the bottom of the first and top of the second).<sup>6</sup>

NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY.	Free white males of 16 years and upward, including heads of families.	Free white males under 16 years.	Free white females, including heads of families.	All other free persons.	Slaves.
Taylor, Willis.....	1				
Horn, Dallah.....	1	1	4		
Barnes, Josiah, Jr.....	1		3		1
Lee, Jesse, Jr.....	1	2	4		2
Lee, Joseph.....	1		4		
Pitman, Rachael.....	2	2	6		
Lamb, Campbell.....	1	4	1		
Rackley, Frederick. <<==	1	5	1		
Pope, Zedekiah.....	1	1	2		
Purvis, Henry..... <<==	1	2	1		
Wright, Abaalom.....	1		2		
Taylor, Jonathan.....	2		2		
Inman, Hardy, Sr.....	3	3	2		
Pitman, Isaac, Jr.....	1	1	1		
Tholer, William.....	3	4	4		2
Ivey, Adam.....	2	3	7		
Stephens, William.....	1	3	3		
Lamb, Mandy.....	1	2	6		
Atkinson, Joseph.....	3		3		
Atkinson, Samuel.....	1	3	5		
Pope, Henry..... <<==	2	3	5		16
Pope, Jesse.....	1		2		
Bullock, Charles.....	3	5	5		
Pitman, Isaac, Sr.....	2		1		
Bird, Isaac.....	3	1	0		
Wilcox, David..... <<==	1	1	3		
Barfield, David.....	1	1	4		
Barfield, Sarah.....		1	2		
Maning, Hillery.....	1		1		
Hill, Moses.....	1	1	2		
Lee, Jesse, Sr.....	1	1	4		2
Cox, Simon..... <<==	1	4	5		
Cox, John.....	1	2	2		
Lamb, Kinchen.....	1	5	1		
Whitley, Solomon.....	1		4		
Pitman, James, Jr.....	1	1	2		
Sutton, Jesse..... <<==	1				

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Atkinson, Howell.....	1		6		
Rowland, John.....	2	3	4		9
Lamb, Arthur.....	2		5		
Lamb, Barnaby.....	1		1		
Clyburn, Joshua.....	1	2	4		
Jones, Mathew.....	1	2	5		
Pitman, Hardy.....	1	1	5		
Atkinson, Jesse.....	1	2	3		
Perry, Philip.....	1	2	2		
Pitman, Thomas.....	1	3	8		1
Kersey, Solomon.....	2		1		
Drinkwater, Daniel.....	1	2	4		
Porter, Samuel.....	2	1	4		
Wingate, Cornelius.....	1	3	3		10
Holt, Francis.....	2	2	6		
James, Solomon.....			1	9	
Rackley, Joseph.....	1	3	2		
Whitley, Solomon.....	1		4		
Jernigan, Capt. Jesse.....	2	6	3		10
Stewart, Elizabeth.....		1	3		1
Ivey, Francis.....	2	3	5		
Williamson, Ellindor.....	1		1		
Grimsley, George.....	2	3	2		
Stephens, Moab.....	1	4	4		2
Lewis, Richard.....	1		1		
Lewis, James.....	1	2	4		
Edwards, Samuel.....	3	2	3		
Flowers, Mary.....	2	1	3		
Kennedy, Samuel, Jr. <<==	1		1		1
Kennedy, Samuel, Sr. <<==	1		2		4
Grantham, Nathan.....	1	1	2		
Page, Joseph.....	1	2	3		1
Ammon, Joshua.....	1	1	2		
Miller, George.....	1	3	3		1
Hill, William.....	1	1	3		
Grantham, James, Sr.....	1		2		
Grantham, James, Jr.....	1		1		
Page, Solomon.....	1		1		
Pate, Bennet.....	2		2		
Johnston, Absalom.....	2	2	4		
Horn, Ephraim.....	1	2	2		
Ashley, William.....	1		1		2
Barnes, Britton.....	2	3	7		1
Sealey, Tobias.....	2	3	4		
Grantham, Edward.....	2	1	2		
Grantham, Josiah.....	1	1	3		
Thompson, Reuben.....	1	1	3		
Fields, John.....	1		3		
Brumble, Elizabeth.....	1	1	4		
Lamb, William.....	2	1	2		
Ivey, Edey.....	1		4		
Harding, Solomon.....				6	
Branch, Randal.....				11	
Warwick, Moses.....	1	2	1		
Flowers, William.....	1	1	3		
Britt, John.....	1		2		
Cox, Gilbert..... <<==				6	8
Hawthorn, Kedar.....	1	1	2		3
Inman, Hardy, Jr.....	1	1	2		2
Britt, Benjamin.....	2	2	5		

This is obviously not conclusive as it assumes the neighborhood in 1790 was essentially the same as when Jesse Sutton made his several appearances in 1797 and when William Sutton witnessed the deed in 1813. The 1800 census would provide a better comparison; unfortunately, the names were arranged semi-alphabetically instead of according to how families were situated as the census taker made his circuit.

But it may provide some much needed clues about Jesse and who he married sometime between 1790 and 1800 because during this time period people generally met and married within their own neighborhood.

In the end it will probably require reconstructing the families of Jesse and Caleb's neighbors and associates to try and discover any familial ties that aren't readily apparent from the records so far found for them.

- <sup>1</sup> "To David Stone and Peter Brown, Esq.: this first actual survey of the state of North Carolina taken by the subscribers is respectfully dedicated by their humble servants, Jona. Price and John Strother," North Carolina Maps (<https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/520>), public domain. published in 1808 but may have been from earlier ("Note: Situation date based on the fact that the map shows Glasgow County in eastern North Carolina, which changed its name to Greene County in 1799)."
- <sup>2</sup> "North Carolina, U.S., Land Grant Files, 1693-1960," Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com>); David Wilcox, Issue Date: 13 Dec 1798, and Simon Cox, Issue Date: 8 Jan 1798.
- <sup>3</sup> "Robeson County, North Carolina Superior Court minutes 1797-1813," image 4a. These are published at USGenWeb Archives (<http://www.usgwarchives.net/nc/robeson/photos/courtminutes.html>) and can be downloaded in a PDF format from <https://archive.org/details/robeson-co-court-minutes-1797-1813>. On a personal note, I was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Guy Potts, the longtime file manager for the NC archives at USGenWeb, who was always patient, diligent and extremely generous with his time.
- <sup>4</sup> Robeson County, North Carolina Deed Books Q-S, Deed Book S, pp. 317-318, images 626-627, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org>).
- <sup>5</sup> The next available court minutes begin in 1829.
- <sup>6</sup> "North Carolina Heads of families at the first census of the United States taken in the year 1790," Ancestry.com. The names are arranged in long columns that encompass more than one page in the actual census images but the ordering of names is the same for both versions.